

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). An image creating apparatus for creating computer graphics of an animation, comprising:

an ~~input section~~ inputter that inputs various information;

a ~~display section~~ displayer that displays ~~[the]~~ various information;

a material data storage ~~section~~ that stores, as material data, character data, action data and set data for creating the computer graphics;

~~a text string/material correspondence table in which the material data is associated with a set of material names for the material data;~~

~~a hierarchical structural description that describes a feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure;~~

a ~~search section~~ searcher that, when ~~[the]~~ a feature of the material data is input from the ~~input section~~ inputter, searches for material data corresponding to the input feature, using ~~[the]~~ a text string/material correspondence table in which the material data is associated with a set of material names for the material data and a hierarchical structural description that describes the feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure;

a ~~registration section~~ registrator that stores the searched material data in the material data storage ~~section~~ and registers the searched material data and a material name of the searched material data with the text string/material correspondence table; and

a text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor that, when a text to ~~designate the~~ for designating a material name is input to a ~~input screen~~ by the inputter, refers to the text string/material correspondence table, searches for a material name [[,]] with which the input text partially matches, acquires material data corresponding to the searched material name, and creates the computer graphics of the animation using the acquired material data by arranging the computer graphics on a three-dimensional space in chronological order.

2 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the feature of the material data is input, the ~~search section~~ searcher refers to the hierarchical structural description, searches for a feature of a lower hierarchy than the input feature, and searches for material data corresponding to the searched feature of the lower hierarchy.

3 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the feature of the material data is input, the ~~search section~~ searcher refers to the hierarchical structural description, searches for a feature of a higher hierarchy than the input feature, and searches for material data corresponding to the searched feature of the higher hierarchy.

4 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display ~~control section~~ controller that displays a list of the ~~searched~~ input feature of the

material data in the ~~display section~~ displayer, and wherein, when a feature of the material data is selected from the list, the ~~search section~~ searcher searches for material data [[for]] corresponding to the selected feature.

5 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, when a feature of the material data is selected from the list, the ~~display control section~~ controller displays a list of thumbnails of [[the]] material data [[for]] corresponding to the selected feature selected from the list.

6 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ~~display control section~~ controller displays a predetermined number of features on the displayer.

7 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the feature of the material data is defined by an attribute and a value of the attribute.

8 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the hierarchical structural description describes the feature related to the material data stored on a network;
the ~~search section~~ searcher searches for the material data stored on the network; and
the ~~registration section~~ registrater registers the searched material data stored on the network.

9 (Canceled).

10 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the material name is further associated with an expression adjective which indicates an expression;

the text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor, when a text which designates for designating the expression adjective is input, searches for ~~[[the]]~~ an expression adjective with which the input text partially matches; and

the ~~display control section~~ displayer displays the searched expression adjective.

11 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the material name is further associated with an expression adverb which indicates an expression;

the text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor, when a text which designates for designating the expression adverb is input, searches for ~~[[the]]~~ an expression adverb with which the input text partially matches; and

the ~~display control section~~ displayer displays the searched expression adverb.

12 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the material data comprises at least one of action data, character data, ~~object data~~, and set data;

the material name ~~comprises~~ includes an action name, a character name, ~~an object name~~, and a set name corresponding to the action data, the character data, ~~the object data~~, and the set data, respectively; and

the text string/material correspondence table comprises a text string/action correspondence table, a text string/character correspondence table [[,]] and a text string/set correspondence table corresponding to the action data, the character data, ~~the object data~~, and the set data, respectively.

13 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

the action name is associated with the character data; and

the text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor, when the character data is selected as the material data, searches for [[the]] an action name corresponding to [[a]] the selected character data.

14 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

the action data comprises an object; and

the text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor, when ~~an object~~ a set name to indicate [[an]] a possible object which the action data ~~comprises~~ can comprise is input, acquires ~~object set~~ data corresponding to the input ~~object set~~ name and creates the computer graphics using the acquired ~~object set~~ data.

15 (Currently Amended). The image creating apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the text string/CG conversion ~~processing section~~ processor, when a text ~~which designates an object to~~

designate a set name to indicate ~~[[an]]~~ a possible object which the action name ~~comprises~~ can comprise is input, refers to the text string/set correspondence table and searches for ~~the object~~ a set name with which the input text partially matches.

16 (Currently Amended). An image creating method performed by an image creating apparatus for creating computer graphics of an animation, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, as material data, character data, action data and set data for creating the computer graphics by a storage of the image creating apparatus;

~~providing a text string/material correspondence table in which material data for creating computer graphics is associated with a set of material names of the material data;~~

~~providing a hierarchical structural description which describes a feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure;~~

searching, when a feature of the material data is input, for material data corresponding to the input feature [[by]] using [[the]] a text string/material correspondence table in which the material data is associated with a set of material names for the material data and a hierarchical structural description that describes the feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure, by a searcher of the image creating apparatus when the feature is input;

storing the searched material data in the storage, [[:]] and registering the searched material data and a material name of the searched material data with the text string/material correspondence table, by a registration of the image creating apparatus; and

~~registering the searched material data and the material name of the searched material data with the text string/material correspondence table; and~~

referring to the text string/material ~~conversion~~ correspondence table when a text to designate a material name is input ~~when a text to indicate the material name is input in an input screen,~~ searching for a material name with which the input text partially matches, acquiring material data corresponding to the searched material name, and creating the computer graphics of the animation using the acquired material data by arranging the computer graphics on a three-dimensional space in chronological order, by a processor of the image creating apparatus.

~~acquiring material data corresponding to the material name; and~~

~~creating the computer graphics by using the acquired material data.~~